

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATOR,  
Washington, DC, May 6, 1997.  
Brig. Gen. KENNETH W. HESS,  
Commander, 319 Air Refueling Wing, Grand  
Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks, ND.

DEAR GENERAL HESS: Working on the disaster has become all consuming, but I did want to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate the courtesies you extended to me and my staff on our recent stay. Too, I shall be forever grateful to you for all you have done for the people of North Dakota.

The night-time evacuation of the city of Grand Forks would have been impossible without the availability of the Grand Forks Air Force Base facilities to those in need of shelter. Your quick response and leadership made a situation rife with danger manageable. This same helpful attitude was evident everywhere on the Base—encouragement, hope, and a warm smile went along with the uniform whether at the Emergency Operations Center of the Command Center. And, kindness did not hamper your efficiency—The Grand Forks Air Force Base was a gracious host to the President of the United States and six Cabinet Members in the midst of a disaster.

General Hess, you can be very proud of the men and women of the 319 Air Refueling Wing. One Airman mentioned to a member of my staff, "We're glad to help out. We are just one big Grand Forks family."

With deepest appreciation,

Sincerely

KENT CONRAD,  
U.S. Senate.●

#### RECOGNITION OF ROSS P. MARINE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, On May 31, 1998, Ross P. Marine, DHL, MHA, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Trinity Luthern Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri, and former Administrator, Truman Medical Center East (Truman East), and the Director of Public Health for the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD), is receiving the Citizen of the Year award from UNICO/Kansas City Chapter. As the recipient, he may select a charity of his choice to receive half the proceeds from the awards dinner. Mr. Marine has chosen to give his donation to the Truman Medical Center East Auxiliary's commitment to the renovation of the Obstetrics Unit into a new Labor, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum wing at Truman East.

UNICO stands for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Clarity and Opportunity and is a national organization made up of men and women of Italian descent who work for positive community service. A Board member or current officer nominates the candidate, for Citizen of the year. Candidates must have an interest in their community and working with others to make their community a better place.

Mr. Marine has continually shown that he not only has concern for the betterment of his community, but has also taken a leadership role. He made health care more accessible by starting five public health outreach facilities. Truman East received \$38 million in renovation and expansion because of Mr. Marine's efforts. While embracing the credo of UNICO, "Service above

Self," he has helped his community and therefore Missouri as a whole. He has been appointed to numerous Boards of Directors and received many awards for all his outstanding achievements.

Commending Mr. Marine for his many years of service to his community and the field of medicine, I am glad to say that the State of Missouri is enriched with his wisdom and leadership. I join the many who congratulate and thank him for his hard work and wish him continued success in future years.●

#### CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE DAY

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as the senior Senator from the state that launched the Mercury astronaut pioneers into space, sent Apollo astronauts to the moon, and has hosted numerous space shuttle launches since 1981, it is a tremendous privilege to lead the U.S. Senate in recognizing May 21 as "International Space Day."

Our nation's exciting adventure in space began just over forty years ago, with the launch of the Explorer I satellite on January 31, 1958. The celebration of this anniversary gave us cause to look back at America's four decades in space. "International Space Day" gives us a chance to look forward and assess how to seize the space opportunities of the future.

Mr. President, forty years after we launched our first satellite and nearly thirty years since Neil Armstrong took mankind's first steps on the lunar surface, Americans remain captivated by the exploration of space.

Students across the nation eagerly study past achievements and future adventures in space exploration. In Florida, tourists flock to the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral to see the famed launch pads and rockets that have boosted man into space. Right here in Washington, the National Air and Space Museum, National Space Society, and the aerospace industry have put space right on Congress' doorstep.

"International Space Day" is an appropriate occasion to reflect on how our exploration and utilization of space dramatically affects our day-to-day lives. It is especially timely this week, when the breakdown of the Galaxy Four satellite has wreaked havoc in our nation's telecommunications sector. Many of us have constituents who were unable to listen to National Public Radio's reports on this week's floor debate on comprehensive tobacco legislation. Thousands of Americans have been inconvenienced because their pagers do not work. Doctors, businesses, television viewers and radio listeners—virtually everyone in our society—have been affected.

Relatively few Americans have had the opportunity to escape the Earth's atmosphere and gravity, but space affects all of us. Galaxy Four is just one example of how critical the utilization of space is to our economy. We are on

the brink of a new frontier in commercial space activity, with almost weekly launches of new communications satellites and the most competitive space launch market in decades.

In 1998, the Senate will have a unique opportunity to remove barriers that impede U.S. companies in the exploration of this new frontier. U.S. Senator CONNIE MACK and I introduced the Commercial Space Act in the Senate last fall and we hope to see it passed soon.

Mr. President, this is an exciting time to be discussing space issues in the U.S. Congress. At NASA's Kennedy Space Center—the nation's premiere launch base—the space shuttle continues to faithfully serve our manned space program. An international team of engineers and astronauts is assembling a new space station. In 1997 and early 1998, the Mars Pathfinder blazed a four-wheel drive trail on the Red Planet and the launch of the Lunar Prospector marked our return to the moon. In October, my colleague JOHN GLENN of Ohio will return to space after thirty-seven years on Earth. VentureStar is under development as our nation's space vehicle of the future. And space tourism—featuring space planes that operate from traditional airports—is becoming more and more of a likelihood.

I hope these developments inspire young Americans to develop the science, math, and engineering expertise that our nation needs to maintain its leadership in space. Congress should encourage efforts like that of the U.S. Space Foundation's Mission Home, a program that brings together space societies and aerospace companies to educate communities all over the nation about our exciting future in space.

Mr. President, Disneyland will rededicate its Tomorrowland on Friday—forty-three years after it first inspired young adventurers to aim beyond the stratosphere. I will depend on all 100 members of this legislative body to help make sure that the United States is actively preparing for its tomorrowland by keeping our nation on the forefront of the exploration, utilization, and commercialization of space today. Working together, we can ensure that every day is space day in the U.S. Senate.●

#### 50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, in 1948 when Israel was fighting its most costly war ever—the war for independence—Israel's future Prime Minister was told by the greatest military experts in the world that his newly created State of 600,000 had no chance of surviving. Now, in 1998, Israel is celebrating its 50th year of independence.

I commend the Jewish Federation of the Scranton-Lackawanna community for observing this historic occasion the weekend of May 1-3.